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9 January 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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*South Vietnam: [Despite apparent progress toward a detente between political and military leaders, renewed coup rumors in Saigon may presage further political disturbances]



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[Some of the current coup rumors involve machinations against Khanh's military leadership by veteran plotter Colonel Pham Ngoc Thao, who recently returned to Saigon from his post as press attaché in the US. More serious, perhaps, are reports alleging that General Khanh, again growing a beard, which he associated with his seizure of power a year ago, is planning imminent action to remove Premier Huong]



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As part of Khanh's intrigues, he is reported to be currying favor with the Buddhists by offering to overthrow Huong.]

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*Colombia: A well-executed attack on a town in Santander Province on 7 January by a uniformed guerrilla band may signal the commencement of guerrilla operations similar to those of the FALN in Venezuela.

The group, reportedly numbering as many as 100 men, cut communication lines, attacked a police station *and killed* ~~killing~~ three agents, stole about \$5,000, harangued a captive audience with antigovernment and anti-US propaganda, and killed several soldiers while escaping into the mountains.

The armbands worn by the attackers identified them as members of the ELN (Army of National Liberation). the ELN had received funds and training from Cuba. The recent return of ELN leader Fabio Vasquez with funds from Cuba was reported, in fact, to signal commencement of this group's terrorist efforts. The ELN is also said to control some urban groups.

Che Guevara and Fidel Castro in recent public addresses have singled out Colombia as well as Venezuela and Guatemala as countries where "freedom fighters" have the best prospects for success.

The government of President Valencia is already plagued by recurrent financial crises. It also faces the threat of a general strike scheduled for 11 January in protest against an unpopular new sales tax.

NOTES

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Arab States: [Arab prime ministers convene in Cairo today to consider further measures to strengthen Arab armed forces. Egypt will again put strong pressure on Jordan and Lebanon to accept Soviet MIG fighters rather than Western models. The prime ministers also will discuss projects for diverting Jordan River tributaries, including the location of a pumping facility which the Lebanese, wary of antagonizing Israel, contend should be located in Syria rather than in Lebanon] [REDACTED]

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East Germany - Indonesia: [The East Germans appear to be on the verge of a diplomatic breakthrough in the form of full recognition by Indonesia. [REDACTED]]

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[REDACTED] Pankow has long sought full recognition by major nonbloc states but has thus far been unsuccessful [REDACTED]

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Syria: The Baathist military regime has adopted drastic new security measures, apparently in response to rumors that Syrian merchants were planning a strike for ~~today~~¹⁹⁶⁵ protesting the regime's recent nationalization measures. A special military court has been established which can impose the death penalty for "actions contrary to the application of the socialist system." These moves ~~will~~^{the strike} probably forestall ~~any~~ immediate demonstrations but will heighten general dissatisfaction with the regime and probably encourage increased coup plotting by various opposition groups.

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THE PRESIDENT

Executive Offices of the White House

- Special Counsel to the President
- The Special Assistant for National Security Affairs
- The Scientific Adviser to the President
- The Director of the Budget

The Department of State

- The Secretary of State
- The Under Secretary of State
- The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
- The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
- The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council
- The Director of Intelligence and Research

The Treasury Department

- The Secretary of the Treasury
- The Under Secretary of the Treasury

The Department of Defense

- The Secretary of Defense
- The Deputy Secretary of Defense
- The Secretary of the Army
- The Secretary of the Navy
- The Secretary of the Air Force
- The Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)
- The Assistant Secretary of Defense
- The Chairman, The Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy
- Chief of Staff, United States Air Force
- Chief of Staff, United States Army
- Commandant, United States Marine Corps
- U.S. Rep., Military Committee and Standing Group, NATO
- Supreme Allied Commander, Europe
- Commander in Chief, Pacific
- Commander in Chief, Atlantic
- The Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
- The Director, The Joint Staff
- The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army
- The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy
- The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force

The Department of Justice

- The Attorney General
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation
- The Director

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

- The Administrator

The Atomic Energy Commission

- The Chairman

The National Security Agency

- The Director

The United States Information Agency

- The Director

The National Indications Center

- The Director

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